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Department of Environment

Ministère de l'Environnement

February 27, 2012

Sean Joseph  
Technical Advisor  
Nunavut Water Board

**via Email to:** [licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org](mailto:licensing@nunavutwaterboard.org)

**RE: NIRB File # 18MN053: Baffinland Application for NLCA 12.10.2(b) Exceptions and New Type B Water Licence Application to the Nunavut Water Board.**

Dear Mr. Joseph:

The Government of Nunavut's Department of Environment (DOE) has reviewed Baffinland Iron Mine's (the Proponent) New Type B Water Licence Application and supporting documentation in accordance with its mandate under the *Environmental Protection Act*, the *Wildlife Act* and the provisions of Nunavut Land Claims Agreement and has the following comments to the Nunavut Water Board (NWB).

Some of the construction activities proposed in the work seem to fall outside the scope of basic preliminary activities (delivery and staging of equipment) that we believe constitute pre-development. For example, the Work Plan calls for the installation of a 80m<sup>3</sup>/day water intake source and sewage treatment plant at Steensby Inlet although the 2012 activities will require only 30m<sup>3</sup>/day (pg.11). The remaining capacity is intended to support project development work that would commence after the certificate is secured. Please explain why it is necessary to have such a high water intake capacity at this point in the pre-development stage.

The DOE thanks the NWB for the opportunity to review and provide comments on this submission. Please feel free to contact me if you have further questions or comments.

Sincerely,

***Original signed by***

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